

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 141136Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2779

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAID, BA

SUBJECT : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE : MANAMA 107

1. MCVOY VISIT, COMING ON HEELS OF FORD FOUNDATION REPS VISIT HERE, PROVIDED EXCELLENT HELPFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH MINISTER OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. ADVISORY ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY. MCVOY LEFT WITH COPY OF GOB POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR HOUSING ADVISOR (REFTEL). MCVOY AND AMBASSADOR AGREED ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT THIS POSITION DESCRIPTION IS ABOUT AS FAR AS GOB CAPABLE OF GOING IN DEFINING ROLE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR AT THIS TIME. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, THEREFORE, BEST NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR AID TO AMPLIFY THE DESCRIPTION ITSELF, PERHAPS EVEN GEARING IT TO A SPECIFIC CANDIDATE AND TO RESUBMIT IT TELEGRAPHICALLY TO EMBASSY FOR CLEARANCE BY GOB.

2. WE WOULD MAKE SAME GENERAL SUGGESTION RE THE OTHER THREE POSITION DESCRIPTIONS WE HAVE SUBMITTED. IN THIS CONNECTION WE ARE INCREASINGLY PERSUADED THAT AS GENERAL RULE THE UP TO TEN AID ADVISORS SLATED FOR BAHRAIN SHOULD ACT MORE IN AN ADVISORY THAN LINE CAPACITY, AND SHOULD BE ATTACHED AS CLOSELY TO THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER CONCERNED AS THEIR FUNCTIONS WILL PERMIT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THE DRAFT AGREEMENT NOW BEFORE GOB SPECIFIES GOB PROVIDE COUNTERPARTS FOR EACH ADVISOR, AN IDEA STRONGLY URGED BY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI WHO IS NO LONGER DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTION.

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ON THE BASIS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HOUSING AND OTHER MINISTRIES

ABOUT THE NEED FOR AMERICAN ADVISORS, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE BAHRAINI "COUNTERPARTS" MOST IN NEED OF EXPERT HELP OF THE SORT WE ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING ARE GENERALLY AT THE MINISTER AND UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL.

3. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN FEBRUARY 12 AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER URGED THAT WE PUSH AHEAD ON THE FOUR ADVISORS FOR WHOM GOB-APPROVED POSITION DESCRIPTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED, WITHOUT WAITING FOR GOB POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR FIFTH "TOP PRIORITY" ADVISOR. (COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE GOB IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHETHER IT WANTS TO LET AN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR LOOSE WITHIN ITS RANKS. END COMMENT) FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISED THAT MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS BAHARNA IS NOW STUDYING DRAFT AGREEMENT AND IT WAS AGREED AMBASSADOR WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN NEXT FEW DAYS. AMBASSADOR AGAIN HIT UP FOREIGN MINISTER ON URGENT NEED FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AID ADVISORS. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED AND INDICATED HIS CURRENT THINKING IS THAT A CENTRAL POINT IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WOULD BE BEST SPOT FOR COORDINATING ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

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